

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02
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O 082157Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8269

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1772

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 - DIMPTD
TAGS: EAID, ECON, PGOV, PINT, SHUM
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DUVALIER AGREES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON
NEW TITLE III PROGRAM

SUMMARY:

I PRESENTED TITLE III PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER MAY 8.
SPELLING OUT PROVISIONS FOR CONTROL OF FUND, I ALSO RELATED
PROPOSAL TO LIBERALIZATION TREND IN THE PAST AND OUR
EXPECTATION IT WOULD CONTINUE. PRESIDENT SAID LIBERALIZATION
WOULD CONTINUE; AND, NOTING HE HAD HAD EXTENSIVE
DISCUSSIONS WITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS ON TITLE III
PROVISIONS, HE SAID THEY HAD RECOMMENDED AND HE HAD
ENDORSED DECISION FOR GOH TO PARTICIPATE IN TITLE III
PROGRAM. HE WILL ADVISE US WHEN NEGOTIATING TEAM IS READY
TO MEET WITH US. DURING CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT ALSO SAID
IAHRC WOULD VISIT IN SUMMER, THAT HE ANTICIPATED "OPEN"
ELECTIONS IN 1979 FOR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, AND THAT
CONAJEC WAS NOT INTENDED AS PARTY BUT AS MEANS OF CONTACT
WITH THE PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER FOR
ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR AND THEN, WITH DCM MEADE AND
AID DIRECTOR HARRISON, MADE A 30-MINUTE AUDIO-
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VISUAL PRESENTATION OF OUR PROPOSED TITLE III
PROGRAM.

2. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING, I OUTLINED THE PROVISIONS
OF THE TITLE III PROGRAM, STRESSING THAT WE WERE
IMPOSING STRICT BUT FAIR CONDITIONS TO INSURE THAT
THE FUNDS WERE TOTALLY USED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

I COMPLIMENTED THE PRESIDENT ON PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN HUMAN RIGHTS, POINTING TO THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE PENDING VISIT OF THE OAS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, I INDICATED TO HIM THAT CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION WAS NEEDED IF THE TITLE III PROGRAM WAS TO PROCEED. HE SAID THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING HIS POLICY OF GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION AND THAT HE EXPECTED THE OAS TEAM TO COME TO HAITI THIS SUMMER. I SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR US TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON FOR THIS PROGRAM AND THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN THE UNITED STATES TO ANY INCREASED PROGRAMS FOR HAITI. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE BAD IMAGE THAT HAITI HAD. HE SAID THE GOH HAD RECENTLY CONTRACTED FOR THE SERVICE OF A LEADING AMERICAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM TO PRESENT MORE POSITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT HAITI IN THE U.S.

3. I THEN ASKED THE PRESIDENT WHEN THERE WOULD BE OPEN CONTESTED ELECTIONS FOR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. HE SAID THAT THE NEXT ELECTIONS WOULD BE IN 1979 AND THAT THEY WOULD BE OPEN FOR ANYONE TO RUN. I REPEATED THAT THIS WOULD MEAN MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH SEAT AND HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE ELECTIONS TO BE FREELY CONTESTED.
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4. I MENTIONED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT WE STILL HAD INQUIRIES CONCERNING POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE MISSING. I NOTED THAT A PROCEDURE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR BUT THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW FEW OF THE MISSING HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE PROCEDURES EXISTED AND WOULD BE USED; THAT ALL THAT WAS NEEDED WAS FOR THE FAMILIES TO MAKE INQUIRY AS PRESCRIBED. I SAID I HOPED, AND EVEN PRESUMED, THAT ALL OF THE MISSING POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD SOON BE ACCOUNTED FOR.

5. I THEN ASKED THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE CONAJEC AND WHETHER IT WAS THE START OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY. HE SAID IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A POLITICAL PARTY, BUT RATHER A MEANS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALL SECTORS OF HAITIAN SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY THE RURAL SECTOR. HE SAID THAT INSTITUTIONS WERE NOT WELL DEVELOPED IN HAITI AND THAT HAITIANS TEND TO THINK ONLY AS INDIVIDUALS. CONAJEC WAS AN EFFORT TO INSTILL A SENSE OF NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AND TO PROVIDE HIM A MEANS OF HAVING A DIALOGUE WITH ALL

SECTORS OF SOCIETY. I SAID WE WOULD BE WATCHING
CONAJEC CAREFULLY AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE A STEP
TOWARD BROADER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

6. I THEN RETURNED TO THE TITLE III PROGRAM AND
SAID WE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED IT WITH MANY
KEY PEOPLE, INCLUDING ANTONIO ANDRE, HEAD OF THE
NATIONAL BANK, AND WITH EACH OF THE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTERS AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO BAYARD.
THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH HIS MINISTERS AND WITH ANDRE AND THEY HAD
RECOMMENDED THAT HE ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT. I SAID
WE WERE PREPARED TO BEGIN DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS
AND THAT MR. HARRISON WOULD HEAD OUR NEGOTIATING
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TEAM. IT WOULD BE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DESIGNATE
HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM. HE ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD
TAKE TO WORK OUT DETAILS AND WHEN THE PROGRAM WOULD
START. I INDICATED THAT WE EXPECTED SEVERAL
MONTHS OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, LOOKING FORWARD

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8270

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1772

TO AN AGREEMENT BY LATE SUMMER. I THEN AGAIN EMPHASIZED
THAT ALTHOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT WRITTEN INTO
THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, CONTINUED PROGRESS WAS
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. THE PRESIDENT SAID THERE

WILL BE NO PROBLEM. WE THEN ADJOURNED TO ANOTHER ROOM FOR THE AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION AND I GAVE HIM A COPY OF OUR PRESENTATION.

7. AFTER HEARING THE AUDIO-VISUAL, THE PRESIDENT ASKED WHO WOULD DESIGN THE FISCAL REFORMS. MR. HARRISON RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE IMF AND THAT THE FISCAL PROVISIONS OF THE TITLE III AGREEMENT WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE PROPOSED BY THE IMF. THE PRESIDENT THEN ASKED ABOUT INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND IF WE HAD ANY SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN MIND. WE RESPONDED THAT WE DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND WERE TALKING ABOUT A GENERAL INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT HE WANTS PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP OUTSIDE OF PORT-AU-PRINCE AND PARTICULARLY THAT HAITI BEGIN TO PRODUCE MORE PRODUCTS FOR ITS OWN CONSUMPTION. WE AGREED AND SAID THAT ENCOURAGING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE TITLE III PROGRAM. THE PRESIDENT THEN ASKED WHEN WE WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN
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NEGOTIATIONS AND WE RESPONDED THAT WE WERE READY NOW AND ASKED THAT HE LET US KNOW THE NAMES OF HIS TEAM AS SOON AS HE WAS READY TO PROCEED. THE PRESIDENT AGREED AND THE MEETING CONCLUDED.

8. COMMENT: IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE TITLE III PROGRAM HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED BY THE GOH TOP LEVEL PRIOR TO OUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. THIS HAD IN FACT BASICALLY BEEN OUR STRATEGY SO THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE SUPRISED AND WOULD HAVE HAD TIME TO IRON OUT HIS OWN PROBLEMS PRIOR TO BEING CONFRONTED WITH THE ACTUAL PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE THAT HE WILL NAME HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL. THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE MANY AREAS WHERE WE WILL HAVE TO DRIVE A HARD BARGIN, BUT THE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE TODAY SUGGESTS THAT HE IS PREPARED TO MAKE SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE ALERT NEVERTHELESS TO ELEMENTS IN THE GOH WHO MIGHT TRY TO WORK AROUND OUR TOUGH CONDITIONS; WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT VIGILANCE FOR SUCH OPPOSITION. ALL IN ALL THE MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY AND THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE MADE UP HIS MIND THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL COME INTO BEING.
JONES

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